

## Public Law 87-280

September 22, 1961  
[S. 1762]

## AN ACT

To regulate the practice of physical therapy in the District of Columbia.

Physical Therapists Practice Act.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the "Physical Therapists Practice Act".

## DEFINITIONS

## SEC. 2. As used in this Act—

(a) The term "Commissioners" means the Commissioners of the District of Columbia sitting as a board, or their authorized agent or agents.

(b) The word "she" and the derivatives thereof shall be construed to include the word "he" and the derivatives thereof.

(c) The term "physical therapy" means the treatment of human disability, injury, or disease by supervised therapeutic procedures embracing the specific scientific application of physical measures to secure the functional rehabilitation of the human body. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing a physical therapist, whether registered or not, to practice medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, naturopathy, or any other form or method of healing.

D. C. Code 2-139.

(d) The term "physical therapist" means a person who practices physical therapy under the prescription, supervision, and direction of a person licensed to practice under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia, approved February 27, 1929 (45 Stat. 1326), as amended.

(e) The word "State" or "States" shall be deemed to include any territory of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION

SEC. 3. This Act shall not apply to any person employed in the District of Columbia by the Federal Government or any agency thereof while such person is acting in the discharge of her official duties.

## REGISTRATION

SEC. 4. (a) No person shall practice physical therapy in the District of Columbia unless (1) she is duly registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or (2) is exempted from such registration by the terms of this Act.

(b) No person not registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, unless exempted from registration by the terms of this Act, shall, directly or indirectly, (1) represent herself to be so registered or (2) represent herself to be certified, licensed, or authorized to practice physical therapy.

(c) No person shall use in connection with her name the words "physical therapist", "physiotherapist", "physical therapy technician", or use the initials "P.T.", "P.T.T.", "R.P.T.", or any other letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that she is a registered physical therapist, unless such person is a holder of a valid registration under this Act.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any person duly licensed or registered in the District of Columbia under any other Act from engaging in the practice for which she is duly registered or licensed.

(e) Nothing in this Act shall apply to any person licensed under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia, nor to any

45 Stat. 1326.  
D. C. Code 2-139.

employee of any such person working under his immediate supervision and direction in his private office, provided no such employee shall hold herself out, or otherwise represent herself to be a physical therapist.

#### POWERS OF COMMISSIONERS

SEC. 5. The Commissioners are hereby vested with full power and authority to delegate, from time to time, to their designated agent or agents, any of the functions vested in them by this Act.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD

SEC. 6. The Commissioners may establish a physical therapists examining board to perform any of the functions vested in the Commissioners by this Act, and, if so established, such board shall be composed of such persons possessing such qualifications as the Commissioners shall determine. The Commissioners are authorized to prescribe the terms of office of members of such board and to fix the compensation of such members. The Commissioners may appoint as members of such board, Federal and District government employees, and such members shall not be entitled to receive compensation as board members, and any such member shall not be debarred by such membership from employment in the Federal or District governments not inconsistent with her duties as a board member. Any board member may receive her compensation as a board member as well as any retirement pay, retirement compensation, or annuity to which she may be entitled on account of previous service rendered to the United States or the District of Columbia governments.

#### POWERS AND DUTIES

SEC. 7. (a) The Commissioners are authorized to adopt from time to time and prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to enable them to carry into effect the provisions of this Act. The Commissioners shall maintain a register of all persons registered as physical therapists. The Commissioners shall maintain a register of approved schools which they deem afford adequate training in physical therapy.

Rules and regulations.

Register.

(b) The Commissioners may make such studies and investigations, and obtain or require the furnishing of such information under oath or affirmation or otherwise, as they deem necessary or proper to assist them in prescribing any regulation or order under this Act, or in the administration and enforcement of this Act, and regulations and orders thereunder. For such purposes, the Commissioners may administer oaths and affirmations, may require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documents at any designated place. In the event of contumacy or refusal to obey any such subpoena or requirement under this section, the Commissioners may make application to the municipal court for the District of Columbia for an order requiring obedience thereto. Thereupon the court, with or without notice and hearing, as it in its discretion may decide, shall make such order as is proper and may punish as a contempt any failure to comply with such order in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c), section 5, of the Act of April 1, 1942 (56 Stat. 193, chapter 207; sec. 11-756(c), D.C. Code, 1951 edition).

Studies and investigations.

## REGISTRATION

Issuance of certificate.

SEC. 8. The Commissioners shall register as physical therapists all applicants who prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioners their fitness for registration under the terms of this Act. The Commissioners shall issue to each person registered a certificate of registration, which shall be prima facie evidence of the right of the person to whom it is issued to represent herself as a registered physical therapist, and authorized to practice as such under this Act.

## REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION

Application date.

SEC. 9. The Commissioners shall register as a physical therapist, without examination, any physical therapist who is at least twenty years of age and of good moral character and who presents evidence satisfactory to the Commissioners that she was, prior to the effective date of this Act, practicing physical therapy in the District of Columbia for a period of two years immediately preceding the effective date of this Act, and that she (1) has graduated from an approved school of physical therapy listed in the register of approved schools or (2) received comparable training or experience in the practice of physical therapy as determined by the Commissioners. Application for registration under this section shall be made on or before the expiration of one year from the effective date of this Act.

## REGISTRATION AFTER EXAMINATION

Eligibility requirements.

SEC. 10. The Commissioners shall pass upon the qualifications of applicants for registration, provide for and conduct all examinations, determine which applicants have successfully passed the examination and duly register such applicants. To be eligible to be examined for registration as a physical therapist, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Be at least twenty years old.
- (b) Be of good moral character.
- (c) Be in good physical and mental health, as certified by a physician licensed to practice in the District of Columbia.
- (d) Be a graduate of an approved school of physical therapy listed in the register of approved schools; or possess comparable educational qualifications as determined by the Commissioners.

The examinations specified in this section shall be conducted at such times and places as the Commissioners may determine, and notice of time and place of such examination shall be published not less than thirty days before the first day of each examination in one or more newspapers of local circulation.

The examination shall embrace such coverage of the following subjects to determine the applicant's qualification: The applied sciences of anatomy, neuroanatomy, kinesiology, physiology, pathology, physics; "physical therapy" as defined in this Act, applied to medicine, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery; medical ethics; technical procedures in the practice of "physical therapy" as defined in this Act.

## RECIPROCITY

SEC. 11. Any applicant who has practiced physical therapy and has been registered, certified, or licensed as such in any State may, upon proof of good moral character, be registered without examination, provided the applicant has graduated from a school of physical therapy approved by the Commissioners, or has received competent

comparable training as determined by the Commissioners. It is intended that the standards of education and training required for registration under this section shall be substantially equivalent to those required for registration pursuant to section 10 of this Act. This section shall be construed to apply only to candidates from States which admit registered physical therapists of the District of Columbia without examination.

#### RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

SEC. 12. (a) Every registered physical therapist engaged in or who proposes to engage in the practice of physical therapy in the District of Columbia is hereby required to register with the Commissioners annually. Any registrant who allows her registration to lapse by failing to renew the registration annually may be reinstated by the Commissioners by showing cause satisfactory to the Commissioners for such failure and upon payment of all required fees. The Commissioners are authorized, after public hearing, to change from time to time the period for which registration or renewal thereof may be issued.

(b) Any person registered under the provisions of this Act but not so practicing in the District of Columbia shall give written notice of such fact to the Commissioners. Upon receipt of such notice, the Commissioners shall place the name of such person upon the non-practicing list. While remaining on such list, such person shall not be subject to the payment of any renewal fee and shall not hold herself out as a registered physical therapist nor practice as such in the District of Columbia. Application for renewal of registration and payment of renewal fee for the current year shall be made to the Commissioners by any such person desiring to resume practice as a registered physical therapist.

Nonpracticing  
therapists.

#### DENIAL, REVOCATION, AND SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION

SEC. 13. The Commissioners are authorized and empowered to deny, revoke, or suspend any registration or certificate of renewal of registration issued by the Commissioners or applied for in accordance with the provisions of this Act if the applicant or holder thereof—

(1) has been guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure any registration or renewal thereof provided for in this Act;

(2) has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

(3) is an intemperate consumer of intoxicating liquors or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;

(4) has been guilty of unprofessional conduct;

(5) has willfully violated any of the provisions of this Act, or rules or regulations promulgated by the Commissioners pursuant to authority contained in this Act;

(6) is mentally incompetent;

(7) is guilty of undertaking to treat ailments of human beings other than by physical therapy as authorized by this Act, or the undertaking to practice physical therapy independent of the prescription and direction of a person appropriately licensed to practice under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia; or

(8) is otherwise professionally incapacitated.

*Provided*, That such denial, revocation, or suspension shall be made only upon specific charges in writing. A copy of any such charges and at least ten days' notice of the hearing of the same shall be mailed to the holder of or applicant for such registration, addressed to her at her last known address.



## COURT REVIEW

SEC. 14. Any person aggrieved by any final decision or final order of the Commissioners denying, suspending, or revoking any registration, or renewal of registration, issued or applied for under this Act may obtain a review thereof in the municipal court of appeals for the District of Columbia, and may seek a review by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit of any judgment of the municipal court of appeals entered pursuant to its review of any such decision or order, all in accordance with subsection (f) of section 7 of the Act approved April 1, 1942, as added by the Act approved August 31, 1954 (68 Stat. 1049).

D. C. Code 11-  
772.

## UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

SEC. 15. It shall be unlawful for any person in the District of Columbia to—

(a) sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any diploma, license, certificate of registration, or record required by this Act, or required by the Commissioners under authority of this Act, or aid or abet in the selling, fraudulently obtaining, or furnishing thereof;

(b) practice physical therapy under cover of any diploma, certificate of registration, or record required by this Act or required by the Commissioners under authority of this Act, illegally or fraudulently obtained or signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent registration;

(c) use in connection with her name any designation tending to imply that she is a registered physical therapist unless duly registered under provisions of this Act;

(d) practice physical therapy during the time her registration shall be suspended or revoked.

## PRACTICE OF REGISTERED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

SEC. 16. A person registered under this Act as a physical therapist shall not treat human ailments by physical therapy or otherwise except under the prescription and direction of a person duly licensed or registered under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia.

45 Stat. 1326.  
D. C. Code 2-  
139.

## ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 17. Any person who shall violate the provisions of section 4, 15, or 16 of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

## CONDUCT OF PROSECUTIONS

SEC. 18. (a) Prosecutions for violations of any provisions of section 4, 15, or 16 of this Act shall be conducted in the name of the District of Columbia in the municipal court for the District of Columbia, by the Corporation Counsel or any of his assistants.

(b) It shall be necessary to prove in any prosecution or hearing under this Act only a single act prohibited by law or a single holding out or an attempt without proving a general course of conduct in order to constitute a violation.

## FEES AND CHARGES

SEC. 19. (a) The Commissioners are authorized and empowered, after a public hearing, to fix and, from time to time increase or decrease, fees for any services rendered under this Act. The Commissioners shall, pursuant to this section, increase, decrease, or fix fees in such amounts as will, in the judgment of the Commissioners, approximate the costs to the District of Columbia of administering this Act: *Provided*, That no fee shall be increased, decreased, or fixed except after a public hearing.

Public hearings  
to change fees.

(b) Upon the change of a registration period as authorized by subsection (a) of section 12 the fee for registration or renewal of registration shall be prorated on the basis of the time covered.

(c) All moneys collected for fees and charges made pursuant to authority contained in this Act shall be paid into the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia.

## SEVERABILITY

SEC. 20. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act, and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

## APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 21. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the revenues of the District of Columbia such sums as may be necessary to pay the expenses of administering and carrying out the purposes of this Act.

## REORGANIZATION

SEC. 22. Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to affect the authority vested in the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia by Reorganization Plan Numbered 5 of 1952 (66 Stat. 824). The performance of any function vested by this Act in the Board of Commissioners or in any office or agency under the jurisdiction and control of said Board of Commissioners may be delegated by said Board of Commissioners in accordance with section 3 of such plan.

D. C. Code title  
1 app.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 23. This Act shall take effect one hundred and twenty days after funds are appropriated for the purpose of administering the provisions of this Act.

Approved September 22, 1961.

Public Law 87-281

## AN ACT

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia", approved June 1, 1910, as amended.

September 22, 1961  
[S. 1529]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That paragraph 3 of section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia", approved June 1, 1910, as amended (36 Stat. 452; 43 Stat. 961; sec. 5-405, D.C. Code, 1951 edition), is amended by striking "over eight stories in height or".

D. C. buildings.  
Height.

Approved September 22, 1961.